

Amendments to the Drawings:

The Applicants' attorney has amended FIGS. 1 and 2 to include the legend "Prior Art", and encloses a replacement sheet that includes these amended drawings.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. The Applicants' attorney has amended claims 2, 9, 12-19, and 21. In view of the following, all previously unallowed claims are in condition for allowance. **If after considering this response the Examiner still does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, he is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at the number below to schedule an interview.**

Objection To The Drawings

The Applicants' attorney has added the legend "Prior Art" to FIGS. 1-2, and encloses a replacement sheet that includes these corrected drawings.

The Applicants' attorney has amended claim 15 to omit recitation of subject matter not shown in the drawings.

The Applicants' attorney has amended claim 16 to be consistent with the drawings.

Objection To Claim 2

The Applicants' attorney has amended claim 2 to overcome this objection.

Rejection Of Claims 9-10, 16, and 19-20 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) As Being Anticipated By U.S. Patent 6,366,030 To Ito

As discussed below, the Applicants' attorney disagrees with this rejection, and therefore, requests the Examiner to withdraw it.

Claim 9

Claim 9 as amended recites a power supply including a circuit having a first node coupled to one of the supply's AC input nodes and having a second node, and a second

capacitor having a first node coupled to the second node of the circuit and having a second node coupled to one of the AC input nodes.

For example, referring to FIG. 3 of the patent application, a power supply includes a control circuit 1 having a first (bottom) node coupled to the neutral (N) AC input node of the supply and having a second (top) node. A second capacitor C2 — the first capacitor is C1 — has a first (top) node coupled to the second (top) node of the control circuit 1 and has a second (bottom) node coupled to the N AC input node.

In contrast, Ito does not disclose the topology recited in claim 9. Referring, *e.g.*, to Ito's FIG. 3, a "circuit" (resistor) 17 has a first (leftmost) node coupled to an AC input node (Ts) of a power supply via a capacitor/battery 14, and has a second (rightmost) node. But although Ito's capacitor/battery 14 has a second (leftmost) node coupled to the AC input node (Ts), the first (rightmost) node of the capacitor/battery 14 is coupled to the first (leftmost) node of the "circuit" 17, not to the second (rightmost) node of the "circuit" 17.

Claim 10

This claim is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 19.

Claim 16

Claim 16 as amended recites a power supply including a first diode having an anode and a cathode respectively coupled to a second node of a first capacitor and to a first node of a second capacitor.

For example, referring to FIG. 3 of the patent application, a diode Dr has an anode coupled to a second (top) node of a first capacitor C1 and has a cathode coupled to a first (top) node of a second capacitor C2.

In contrast, Ito does not disclose the topology recited in claim 16. Referring, *e.g.*, to Ito's FIG. 3, a diode 15 is reversed relative to the claimed diode. That is, the diode 15 has an anode, not a cathode, coupled to a second capacitor 14, and has a cathode,

not an anode, coupled to a first capacitor C2 — the second capacitor recited in claim 16 reads on Ito's capacitor 14 because the capacitor 14 is coupled to a supply input node (Ts), and the first capacitor recited in claim 16 reads on Ito's capacitor C2 because C2 is coupled to a supply output node (anode of D2).

Claim 19

Claim 19 as amended recites charging a second capacitor with a first capacitor when a first input node is positive relative to a second input node, the second capacitor having a first node coupled to a first node of the first capacitor and having a second node bidirectionally coupled to the second input node, the first capacitor having a second node coupled to an output node of a rectifier that is coupled to the first and second input nodes, and electrically isolating the first node of the first capacitor from the first node of the second capacitor when the first input node is negative relative to the second input node.

For example, referring to FIG. 3 of the patent application, a second capacitor C2 is charged with a first capacitor C1 when a first input node P is positive relative to a second input node N. The second capacitor C2 has a first node coupled to a first node of the first capacitor via a diode Dr, and has a second node bidirectionally coupled to the second input node N. The first capacitor C1 has a second node coupled to an output node M of a rectifier (bridge 3 and capacitor CHT) that is coupled to the first and second input nodes P and N. The diode Dr is reversed biased, and thus electrically isolates the first node of the first capacitor C1 from the first node of the second capacitor C2, when the first input node P is negative relative to the second input node N.

In contrast, Ito does not disclose the method recited in claim 19. Referring, e.g., to Ito's FIG. 3, a second capacitor C2 is charged with a first capacitor 14 when a first input node (Ts) is positive relative to a second input node (bottom node of Ts winding), the second capacitor C2 having a first (top) node coupled to a first (rightmost) node of the first capacitor 14. But, unlike the second capacitor recited in claim 19, Ito's second capacitor C2 does not have a second (bottom) node bidirectionally coupled — diode D2 provides only unidirectional coupling — to the second input node (bottom node of Ts

winding). And if one attempts to read the first capacitor of claim 19 on Ito's capacitor C1, then, because the first nodes of C1 and C2 are coupled to ground, Ito never electrically isolates the first node of C1 from the first node of C2 as recited in claim 19.

Claim 20

This claim is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 19.

Rejection Of Claims 11 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Ito In View Of The Prior Art In FIGS. 1-2 Of The Patent Application

As discussed below, the Applicants' attorney disagrees with this rejection, and therefore, requests the Examiner to withdraw it.

Claims 11 and 15

These claims are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants' attorney has amended claim 2 to overcome the Examiner's objection as discussed above, and has amended claims 12-14, 17-18, and 21 into independent form; consequently, these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in addition to the allowed claims 1 and 3-8, claims 10-11 and 20 as previously pending and claims 2, 9, 12-18, and 21 as amended are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

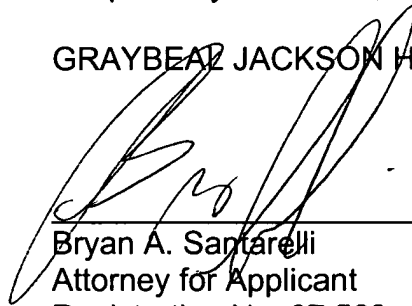
In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' attorney, Bryan Santarelli, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 17th day of January, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan A. Santarelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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